

Parks and Recreation Department

Finance Work Group Recommendations

April 23, 2003

1. **Sharing “Community Space” Between the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln Public Schools** – The City of Lincoln and the Lincoln Public Schools have a long standing tradition of cooperation in operating programs and in sharing facilities. As LPS looks to the future and their growing need for additional schools, the opportunity presents itself to once again examine the construction of facilities that can be used in common between the City and School District. The Parks and Recreation Department has expressed interest in working with LPS to build two new “community centers” and four new “activity centers” over the next 12 years. These centers would be constructed as part of any new LPS schools built over this period. The projected cost of the two community centers is \$6,560,000 and the four activity centers is \$685,000 – for a total of \$7,245,000. In addition to providing LPS with needed activity space, these centers could house a wide range of community programs ranging from recreational programs sponsored by the City to other services offered by such organizations as Family Services and the YMCA.

Finance Work Group Recommendation: The Finance Work Group supports the concept of shared community space between the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln Public Schools, and recommends that funding for these facilities be associated with any General Obligation bond proposals for new LPS schools that may be home to such facilities.

2 X

Importance of Future Impact Fees in Sustaining Neighborhood Park

Development – The development impact fees slated for implementation on June 1, 2003, are projected to contribute about \$3.6 million toward neighborhood parks

and trails over the next 12 years. This figure represents a substantial portion of the Department's total budget and is critical to the funding for neighborhood parks and trails.

Finance Work Group Recommendation: *The Finance Work Group supports the establishment and use of development impact fees for the purpose of constructing neighborhood parks and trails in the new growth areas of Lincoln.*

3 X **Funding Strategies for Greenways and Open Space Conservation Activities Contained in the Adopted Comprehensive Plan** – The recently adopted Comprehensive Plan lays out a multi-year program of “greenways” and open space areas throughout the city and county. These areas would conserve a network of natural environmental features such as streams, native prairies/grasslands, and unique vistas. This program would include a network of trails and public access corridors that would be interlaced across future urban and rural areas of the city and county. A key feature of this proposal is the “Salt Valley Heritage Greenway,” which would encompass key portions of Salt Creek and Stevens Creek.

Finance Work Group Recommendation: *The Finance Work Group reaffirms the greenway and open space concepts expressed in the Comprehensive Plan, and supports efforts to engage the community in a broad-based dialogue to formulate a funding strategy to fulfill the objectives contained in the adopted Comprehensive Plan.*

4 1X **Providing Funding for Trail Rehabilitation** – The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County have an extensive and ever-growing trail system. This system is the product of many years of hard work and dedication by trails advocates, the City, and the County. As the system expands, concern grows over the

maintenance of the existing trails. The Parks and Recreation Department estimates at about \$3.5 million will be needed during the near term to rehabilitate and maintain the trail system.

Finance Work Group Recommendation: The Finance Work Group recommends that \$3.5 million be added to the proposal General Obligation bond issue for streets and sidewalks to support the continued maintenance and rehabilitation of the trail system.

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